(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to galvanise and streamline the system to exploit great potential of Indian Mineral Industries;

(d) the value of minerals and ore imported and exported during each of the last three years; and

(e) the steps taken to boost up export of these products and allow foreign investment for mineral exploration?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) to (c) Mineral deposits generally occur in remote and backward areas with poor infrastructural facilities which often inhibit their optimum development. As per the National Mineral Policy, 1993, a major thrust is to be given for development of infrastructural facilities in mineral bearing areas. The development strategy of the Govt. attaches high priority to development of efficient infrastructure and towards creating an enabling environment for private participation in the infrastructure sector. To promote infrastructural projects, the Government has incorporated the infrastructural Development Finance Company besides allowing five year tax holiday for certain categories of infrastructural projects. The National Highway Authority of India is also now geared to implement the new policy on roads and highways. With a view to promote investment in the mineral sector, under the National Mineral Policy of 1993, 13 minerals which were reserved for exclusive exploitation by the public sector were thrown open for private investment both domestic and foreign. Subsequent amendments to the MMRD Act have also been made with a view to give effect to the policy changes in order to promote investment in the mining sector.

(d) The value of imports and exports of minerals and ores during each of the last three years is given below :

Value - Rs. Million

Year	Import	Export
1993-94	214601	142664
1994-95	193659	158318
1995-96	236599	198198

(e) With a view to facilitate foreign direct investment in the mineral sector, the Govt. has recently allowed (in January, 1997) automatic route for foreign equity participation upto 50% in case of mining of iron ore, manganese ore, bauxite, copper, lead and zinc ores etc. Further, the Government has also allowed automatic approval route for foreign equity participation upto 74% for services incidental to mining excluding serviced related to gold, silver and precious/semi precious stones.

Accommodation Racket Thriving

3042. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned 'Accommodation racket thriving in Railway Colony' appearing in the 'Deccan Chronicle', Hyderabad dated October 17, 1995;

(b) if so, whether South Central Railway employees have given 60% out of 1500 railway quarters on rent;

(c) whether the Vigilance Department of the Railways have found a number of such cases; and

(d) if so, the steps have been taken by the Government to apprehend the culprits in view of checking up the misuse of railway quarters?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Out of 125 quarters checked by Railway Vigilance/ CBI from January 1996 to November 1996 in Hyderabad/ Secunderabad areas, subletting of quarters was noticed on 27 cases.

(d) Action under D&AR has been initiated against the delinquent officials besides cancellation of their allotments. Further checks are continuing and action as deemed fit will continue to be taken against delinquent officials. The concerned authorities have also been instructed to ensure that the Colony Committees constituted for the purpose also investigate the cases and take necessary action to avoid recurrence of such cases.

Modernisation of Railway Stations

3043. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have any plan for the modernisation/development of Railway Stations at Cannanore and Calicut in Kerala; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the estimated cost and allocation made therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Transmission Capacity of Bhopal Doordarshan/AIR

3044. SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the transmission capacity of radio and Doordarshan stations of Bhopal at present;